

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/912,398

Examiner

Thomas H. Stevens

Applicant(s)

INANAMI ET AL.

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 11/30/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-6 and 10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 were previously examined.
2. Claims 2,3,7-9 and 11 are cancelled.
3. Claims 1,4-6 and 10 were examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1,4-6 and 10 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While US Patent 6,169,992 (claim 1) teaches a method of producing a semiconductor device, by transferring information between a person who wishes to receive an order and a person who wishes to place an order through a network, the method comprising: receiving, from a person who wishes to place an order, a plurality of specifications of the semiconductor device; generating a plurality of circuit patterns based on at least one of the specifications of the semiconductor device, the circuit patterns including a circuit pattern generated a plurality of design parameters for each of the circuit patterns, and calculating a cost and a delivery time period for each of the circuit patterns, presenting said plurality of design parameters with the associated cost and the associated delivery time period for each of the circuit patterns to the person who wishes to place an order for each of the circuit patterns; and providing the semiconductor device to the person who wishes to place an order when at least one of the plurality of design parameters with the associated cost and the associated delivery time satisfies a desired condition; (claim 6) a method of producing a semiconductor device upon receiving an order for the

semiconductor device based on information transferred between a person who wishes to receive an order and a person who wishes to place an order through a network, the method comprising: receiving, from a person who wishes to place an order, a plurality of specifications of the semiconductor device; transmitting the specifications of the semiconductor device to a server, and causing the server to generate a plurality of circuit patterns based on the specifications of the semiconductor device, the circuit patterns including a circuit pattern generated, receiving said plurality of design parameters from the server; and presenting said plurality of design parameters to the person who wishes to place an order for each of the circuit patterns and allowing the person who wishes to place an order to select a circuit pattern satisfying a desired condition; (claim 10) a program product for causing a computer system to produce a semiconductor device upon receiving an order for the semiconductor device by transferring information between a person who wishes to receive an order and a person who wishes to place an order through a network, a ready medium and instructions on the ready medium provides the computer system with an instruction allowing the person who wishes to place an order to input specifications of the semiconductor device by request of the person who wishes to receive an order presents said plurality of design parameters to the person who wishes to place an order for each of the circuit patterns and allows the person who wishes to place an order to select a circuit pattern satisfying a desired condition none of these references, taken either alone or in combination, with the prior art of record disclosing a

(claim 1) "character projection (CP) aperture for charged-particle beam exposure and a circuit pattern generated by using the stored CP aperture and a CP aperture to be newly produced, the cost including a cost for producing the CP aperture to be newly prepared,"

(claim 6) "by using a stored CP aperture for charged-particle beam exposure, generated by using the stored CP aperture and a CP aperture to be newly produced,"

(claim 10) " the second instruction means generates a plurality of circuit patterns based on the specifications of the semiconductor device, the circuit patterns including a circuit pattern generated by using a stored CP aperture for charged-particle beam exposure and a circuit pattern generated by using the stored CP aperture and a CP aperture to be newly produced and obtains a plurality of design parameters for each of the circuit patterns presents,"

in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention. It is for these reasons that the applicants' invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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Correspondence Information

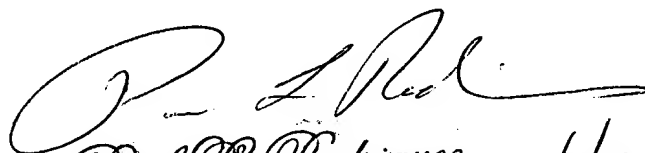
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact examiner's supervisor Mr. Paul Rodriguez 571-272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Answers to questions regarding access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) (toll-free (866-217-9197)).

March 5, 2006

TS


Paul P. Rodriguez 3/6/06
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125